UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/86
S/1996/216
25 March 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Item 73 of the preliminary list*
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 22 March 1996 from the representatives of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to enclose herewith a statement issued jointly on 22 March 1996 from the Governments of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America concerning their intention to sign the relevant protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga on 25 March 1996.

May we ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 73 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hervé LADSOUS
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of France
to the United Nations

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland to the
United Nations

(Signed) Karl INDERFURTH
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the United States Mission
to the United Nations

* A/51/50.

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Joint statement issued on 22 March 1996 by the Governments of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America

The Governments of the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America will sign the three Protocols to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga) on 25 March in Suva.

Last year's Review and Extension of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference agreed that internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, based on arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, enhance international peace and security. The Conference also agreed that the cooperation of all the nuclear-weapon States and their respect and support for the relevant protocols is necessary for the maximum effectiveness of such zones and the relevant protocols.

Our decision to sign the protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga demonstrates our clear support for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the South Pacific.

It is also an important further milestone in demonstrating our commitment to nuclear non-proliferation.

It underlines our wish to see a permanent end to nuclear testing throughout the world. It will give a further boost to the negotiations for a comprehensive test-ban treaty, which we believe should be completed in the first half of 1996.